

Project START Study Group. Relative Efficacy of a Multi-Session Sexual Risk Reduction Intervention for Young Men Released from Prisons in 4 US States. *American Journal of Public Health* (in press).

Objectives. To compare the effects of an enhanced multi-session intervention (EI) with a single-session intervention (SSI) on the sexual risk of young men released from prison.

Methods. Young men, ages 18-29, were recruited from prisons in 4 U.S. states and systematically assigned to the pre-release SSI or the pre- and post-release EI. Both interventions addressed HIV, hepatitis, and other sexually transmitted infections; the EI also addressed community reentry needs (e.g., housing, employment). Assessment data were collected before intervention, and 1, 12, and 24 weeks after release.

Results. 522 men were included in intent-to-treat analyses. Follow-up rates ranged from 79% to 86%. Unprotected vaginal/anal sex during the 90 days prior to incarceration was reported by 86% of men in the EI and 89% in the SSI (OR = 0.78, 95%CI = 0.46, 1.32). At 24 weeks, 68% of men assigned to the EI reported unprotected vaginal/anal sex compared to 78% of those assigned to the SSI (OR = 0.40, 95%CI = 0.18, 0.87).

Conclusions. Project START demonstrates the efficacy of a sexual risk reduction intervention that bridges incarceration and community reentry.